(b) The offer of assistance was received by IVIinistry of Home Affairs in the form of a letter dated October, 4,2004 written by Ambassador of USA.

(c) and (e) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

(f) Govemmenf s position is that cooperative efforts in the iReld of counter-terrorism would be discussed within the existing framework of cooperation for such matters.

Extradition Treaty witli Tliaiiand

1497. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Thailand are finalising an extradition treaty;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be signed; and

(c) what is the likely achievement of the treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) The discussions for concluding an Extradition Treaty with Thailand are at initial stage.

(c) Once in force, the Extradition Treaty will provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of fugitive offenders charged with exbditable offences.

Death of Indian Haj Pilgrims

1498. SHRI LALITSURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Haj pilgrims who lost their lives in Saudi Arabia during Haj pilgrimage in 2004 due to stampede and other causes, separately; and

(b) the nature and extent of help provided by the Government of India and Saudi Arabia to the families of those who lost their lives during the pilgrimage?